

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user, ~~including comprising~~ the steps of:

(a) presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;

(b) masking the test stimulus;

(c) measuring a response from the user, the response providing information about ~~(i)~~ the user's perception of a characteristic of the test stimulus, ~~and together with the (ii)~~ a ~~response~~ time taken for the user to respond;

(d) repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile; and

(e) ~~assessing cognitive impairment in the user by comparing the user profile with a reference profile, and thereby assessing cognitive impairment in the user.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) ~~includes comprises~~ repeating steps (a) to (c) for a range of pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein step (a) ~~includes the step of comprises~~ presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, ~~further including the step of comprising calculating, for each pre-determined test stimulus~~

~~exposure duration of step (a), a representative error rate representing the that represents a proportion of responses measured in step (c) which are inaccurate responses for each of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the user profile ~~includes of (d)~~ comprises an error rate curve charting the representative error rate relative to the pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 or claim 5 wherein, calculating the representative error rate is calculated from ~~comprises calculating~~ a mean of the error of each response ~~for responses at the~~ each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of the preceding claims, further including the step of ~~claim 1, comprising calculating, for each pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration, an average response time a mean response time for each of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations.~~

8. (Currently Amended) method according to claim 7, wherein the user profile ~~includes of (d)~~ comprises a response rate curve charting the mean response time relative to the pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations~~duration~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of the preceding claims ~~claim 1~~ wherein consequent presentations of a test stimulus to the user ~~repetitions of step (a)~~ are separated by a uniform time interval.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the reference profile is generated ~~using~~from data that ~~are selected from the group consisting of:~~

- (a) data obtained from a reference group ~~including~~comprising cognitively normal individuals; ~~or,~~ and
- (b) data previously generated by the user.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration is between 10 ms and 300 ms.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the user has a choice of two different responses for responding to each test stimulus.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein one of two or more different test stimuli are presented to the user in step (a).

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein each of the test stimuli are presented an equal number of times.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the test stimulus is masked by a mask that ~~includes~~comprises at least one full-filled circle or curved line.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the mask ~~is~~comprises an image ~~including~~having a plurality of full-filled circles or parts thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the mask ~~is comprises~~ an image ~~including having~~ a plurality of curved lines or parts thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing visual impairment of a user, ~~including comprising~~ the steps of:

- (a) presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;
- (b) masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the test stimulus;
- (c) measuring a response from the user, the response providing information about ~~(i)~~ the user's perception of specific characteristics of the test stimulus ~~together with the, and (ii) response~~ time taken for the user to respond;
- (d) repeating steps (a) to (c) ~~using to develop a user profile, wherein the same pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration to develop a user profile has a duration equal to the duration of the pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration of (a); and~~
- (e) comparing the user profile with a reference profile to assess visual impairment of the user.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing visual impairment of a user according to claim 18 wherein step (a) ~~includes the step of~~ ~~comprises~~ presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user, ~~including comprising~~ the steps of:

- (a) presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;
- (b) masking the test stimulus by placing a mask over or in place of the test stimulus;
- (c) measuring a response from the user, the response ~~including comprising~~:

- i. a response time; and
  - ii. either a correct or an incorrect indication of the visual test stimulus;
- (d) repeating steps (a) to (c) to develop a user profile; and
  - (e) comparing the user profile to a reference profile to assess cognitive impairment in the user.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing cognitive impairment of a user according to claim 20 wherein step (a) ~~includes the step of~~ comprises presenting a focal point stimulus to the user before presenting the visual test stimulus to the user.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for assessing cognitive impairment of a user, including comprising:

- (a) presentation means for presenting a visual test stimulus to the user for a pre-determined test stimulus exposure duration;
- (b) mask means for masking the test stimulus after presentation of the test stimulus to the user;
- (c) response measuring means ~~to measure the~~ for measuring a response from the user after presentation of the visual test stimulus;
- (d) processing means ~~to process~~ for processing the response from the user over one or a range of pre-determined test stimulus exposure durations to develop ~~the~~ a user profile over the range; and
- (e) assessment means ~~to compare~~ for comparing the user profile to a reference profile to assess cognitive impairment in the user.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for assessing cognitive impairment of a user according to claim 22 further including comprising focal point presentation means for presenting a focal point stimulus to the user.

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Preliminary Amendment

24. (Currently Amended) A mask for masking a visual test stimulus, the mask including comprising an image having a plurality of filled circles or curved lines or parts thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 1, ~~to-18~~  
and 20, wherein the user profile is-comprises a response curve.